

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **10/594,546**
Amendment filed September 8, 2008
Reply to OA dated June 6, 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A stationary phase extraction cartridge provided with an inflow side frit, a stationary phase filler and an outflow side frit from the upper side in a cylindrical cartridge body having an opened upper end and an opened lower end, the stationary phase extraction cartridge comprising:

a stopper part formed on the inner surface of the lower side of the cartridge body and projected inward to continuously or intermittently support the outer peripheral edge of the outflow side frit, or

~~a holding part~~ an abutting step part formed on the inner surface of ~~the lower side of the~~ cartridge body, said abutting step part being abutted to a lower end of an inserted cartridge body when inserting the other cartridge body from an upper end opening of the cartridge body; and ~~constituting a tapered part having a diameter decreased toward the lower side to hold the outflow side frit; and~~

~~a fitting part formed on the cartridge body and capable of holding the inserted state of the lower end of the other cartridge body inserted from the upper end of the cartridge body to a specified position;~~

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wherein the inner surface of the cartridge body located below is continued to the inner surface of the cartridge body located above so as to be substantially flush therewith in the fitted state of the two cartridge bodies

~~wherein the fitting part comprises an inside tapered surface formed in at least a specific range of the inner surface of the cartridge body on the inserted side and having a diameter increased toward the upper side and an outside tapered surface formed in at least a specific range of the outer surface of the cartridge body on the insert side and having a diameter increased toward the upper side, and both the inside tapered surface and the outside tapered surface have substantially the same oblique angle.~~

Claim 2 (Original): The stationary phase extraction cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the inner surface of the cartridge body located below is continued to the inner surface of the cartridge body located above so as to be substantially flush therewith in the fitted state of the two cartridge bodies.

Claim 3 (Canceled)

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The stationary phase extraction cartridge according to ~~claim~~ claim 1, wherein the upper end opening of the cartridge body is set larger than the outside diameter of the lower end of the cartridge body,

wherein the inner surface of the cartridge body between the upper end opening thereof and the abutting step part located below is formed into a tapered surface having an inner diameter decreased toward the abutting step part, and

wherein the outer surface of the lower side portion of the cartridge body is formed into a tapered surface having an outside diameter increased toward the step part from the lower end.

Claim 5 (Original): The stationary phase extraction cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the stopper part includes a plurality of projected parts projected inward at a prescribed interval in the circumferential direction of the inner surface of the lower end of the cartridge body.

Claim 6 (Original): The stationary phase extraction cartridge according to claim 5, further comprising a short cylindrical lower end portion provided with the stopper part and removably attached to the lower end of the cartridge body.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The stationary phase extraction cartridge according to any one of claim 1, further comprising a flange part formed on the upper end of the cartridge body.

Claim 8 (Original): The stationary phase extraction cartridge according to claim 2, wherein the cartridge body comprises a lower side portion capable of being inserted and fitted into the other cartridge body and an upper side portion having an outside diameter projected outward from the

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lower side portion, and wherein an abutting step part for regulating the inserted position of the cartridge body located above is formed on the inner surface of the cartridge body located below so that a clearance is formed between a step part and the upper end of the cartridge body located below in the fitted state of the two cartridge bodies, the step part formed at a boundary part of the lower side portion and upper side portion of the cartridge body located above.

Claim 9 (Original): The stationary phase extraction cartridge according to claim 8, wherein the upper end opening of the cartridge body is set larger than the outside diameter of the lower end of the cartridge body, wherein the inner surface of the cartridge body between the upper end opening thereof and the abutting step part located below is formed into a tapered surface having an inner diameter decreased toward the abutting step part, and wherein the outer surface of the lower side portion of the cartridge body is formed into a tapered surface having an outside diameter increased toward the step part from the lower end.

Claim 10 (Original): The stationary phase extraction cartridge according to claim 2, further comprising a flange part formed on the upper end of the cartridge body.

Claim 11 (Canceled)

Claim 12 (Original): The stationary phase extraction cartridge according to claim 4, further

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comprising a flange part formed on the upper end of the cartridge body.

Claim 13 (Original): The stationary phase extraction cartridge according to claim 5, further comprising a flange part formed on the upper end of the cartridge body.

Claim 14 (Original): The stationary phase extraction cartridge according to claim 6, further comprising a flange part formed on the upper end of the cartridge body.

Claim 15 (Original): The stationary phase extraction cartridge according to claim 8, further comprising a flange part formed on the upper end of the cartridge body.

Claim 16 (Original): The stationary phase extraction cartridge according to claim 9, further comprising a flange part formed on the upper end of the cartridge body.